

South Dakota

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

News Release

March 31, 2004

CORN AND SPRING WHEAT ACRES EXPECTED TO INCREASE

SIOUX FALLS, March 31, 2004 – Producers in South Dakota intend to plant 50,000 more acres of corn and 100,000 more acres of spring wheat this year, while soybeans are intended to drop 150,000 acres from last year, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Any planting changes due to weather or other factors will be accounted for when actual plantings are obtained in early June.

Corn plantings are expected to be 4.45 million acres, up 1 percent from 2003. Producers plan to plant 80 percent of these acres to biotechnology corn varieties. Producers intend to plant 32 percent of the acres to insect resistant (Bt) varieties, down from 34 percent last year. Herbicide resistant varieties are expected to be used on 28 percent of the acres, up from 24 percent in 2003, while stacked gene varieties will account for 20 percent of the acres, versus 17 percent a year earlier.

Soybean plantings are expected to total 4.10 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. Intentions are for seeding biotechnology soybean varieties on 96 percent of the acres, compared to 91 percent last year.

Sunflower acreage is expected to total 410,000 acres, down 19 percent from last year. **Oil sunflowers** will account for 380,000 acres, down 20 percent from 2003. **Non-oil sunflowers** account for 30,000 acres, unchanged from 2003.

Sorghum planted acreage is expected to total 350,000 acres, up 30 percent from last year.

Winter wheat acres seeded last fall totaled 1.70 million acres, up 6 percent from a year earlier.

Other spring wheat seeding intentions are at 1.50 million acres, up 7 percent from 2003.

Durum wheat seeding intentions, at 20,000 acres, are down 29 percent from last year.

Oats to be seeded, estimated at 400,000 acres, are down 5 percent from 2003.

Barley seedings, estimated at 70,000 acres, are down 5,000 acres from 2003.

Dry edible bean planting intentions, estimated at 7,000 acres, are down 1,000 acres from last year.

All hay harvested acreage is estimated at 4.40 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

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